



# BEECH HILL NEWS



Friday 15th November



## Mrs Sabia

It is with great sadness that we inform you Sabia Quddus, a beloved member of the Beech Hill staff team, has passed away after a short battle with cancer.

We are offering emotional support to staff and children in school as we understand they will feel this loss immensely and, if any of you would like to contact us at any time, we are here for you all.

We are planning to hold a remembrance assembly in honour of Sabia for the school community to reflect on the brilliant job she did in school and the wonderful person that she was.

She will be greatly missed by us all.

## Beech Hill Girls, Verd De Gris and One Voice Building Confidence and Connections - Together

Before the holidays, some of our year 6 girls, Verd De Gris and One Voice came together in a powerful session, united through a shared group poem.

We explored words, art, and movement- not just as individuals, but as a cohesive group, learning and growing together. This journey isn't one-sided; it is a mutual support and understanding, where each person brings something unique and all gain something equally meaningful in return.

These sessions are the foundation for something bigger. As we build trust and confidence, we are working towards a joint performance on International Women's Day 2025, celebrating the voices of these young girls alongside the women who mentor and inspire them.

It is about helping each other find our voices, step by step, and creating something spectacular, as one.

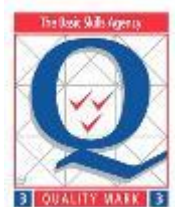
#creative community

Mrs Lee



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## Important Dates

Tues 19th & Thu 21st Nov - Reception Parent Lunches  
 Tues 19th to Wed 20th Nov - Year 2 Residential  
 Thu 21st Nov - Year 5 & 6 Football Competition  
 Wed 27th & Thu 28th Nov - Year 4 to Cliffe Castle  
 Tue 3rd & Thu 5th Dec - Year 2 Parent Lunch  
 Wed 4th Dec - Cross Country (next stage)  
 Tue 10th Dec - Christmas Dinner Day  
 Fri 13th Dec - Reindeer Run & Christmas Jumper Day  
 Fri 13th Dec - Festive Coffee Morning  
 w/c Mon 16th Dec - Class Christmas Parties  
 Mon 16th Dec to Wed 18th Dec - Year 6 Residential  
 Fri 20th Dec - Values Assembly

**School closes to all children on Friday 20th December at 1:10pm.**



## Attendance Update

(from 04.11.2024 to 08.11.2024)

Group	% Attendance
Halifax 1	92.3%
Halifax 2	91.7%
Halifax 3	91.8%
Northern Ireland	98.9%
Wales	97.8%
Scotland	91.2%
Switzerland	87.5%
Jordan	95.4%
Canada	98.3%
Mexico	98.1%
Morocco	96.3%
South Africa	98.7%
Australia	96%
France	94.6%
Singapore	95.3%
Denmark	97.8%
Tanzania	92.2%
Egypt	98.8%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>95.7%</b>

The best way to support your child with their learning is to ensure they are in school every day.

Overall, attendance has dropped slightly below expectations so please make sure you are bringing your children in to school and on time.

Thank you for your co-operation!



**Beech Hill School**

"Learning Without Limits"

SEND Newsletter Autumn 2 2024

If you have any concerns regarding your child's educational needs please speak to the class teacher in the first instance or make an appointment to speak to them with the year group SENDCo.



Miss Walker  
Y3, 4, 5  
and 6



Miss Waddington  
EYFS, Y1 and 2



**Ambitious about Autism**

is a charity that stand with autistic children and young people, champion their rights and create opportunities. If you are a parent or young person looking to connect with others and share your experiences, you can join their Talk about Autism forum - a friendly online community.

Their quality of life at home toolkit comprises a series of five animated films to support autistic children and young people, as well as their parents and families around understanding behaviour and emotional needs.

<https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/information-about-autism/health-and-wellbeing/physical-mental-wellbeing/>



### Speech and Language at Beech Hill

Check out our top tips for parents to help your children learn key every day vocabulary as well as sorting and categorising everyday items.

<https://beechhillschool.co.uk/bhps/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SALT-Sorting-Card-Games.pdf>

Please click on the link below to find out more about the amount of support available to children, young people and their families with special educational needs and/or disabilities in Calderdale.

<https://new.calderdale.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/local-offer->



## TT Rockstars Most Correct Answers



Year 2 - Shrayan K (Switzerland)

Year 3 - Arslaan B (Morocco)

Year 4 - Samanyu N (South Africa)

Year 5 - Ahil N (Denmark)

Year 6 - Nimra R (Tanzania)

**Class with the most daily minutes played by active player**  
South Africa

## Orienteering

Last Thursday, a group of Year 5 children took part in an orienteering event which was held at the OSCA Foundation Community Sports Hub.

The event consisted of finding 10 markers which were dotted around a huge playing field in the fastest time possible. The children were left with a map to help locate where each marker was and where the next one could be found. We were competing against several other schools in what was a cold damp morning. Nevertheless, our children did brilliantly finding all the markers in approximately 28 minutes. The winning school managed to find them all in 23 minutes.

Considering it was the first time our children were competing in an orienteering competition, they did amazingly working as one and supporting each other. Well done to all those involved.



**STOP**

THANKS FOR REMEMBERING

THIS IS A



**PEANUT/NUT FREE  
SCHOOL**

## Nut-free School

Please be aware that Beech Hill is a nut-free school. We have children in school with severe peanut allergies so bringing nut/peanut products into school could be life threatening.

We kindly ask that you check all ingredients carefully when preparing your child's packed lunch and we also ask that you do not send any sweets/chocolates into school for your child's birthday if they contain nuts. Thank you for your co-operation.



## Verd de Gris - Women 2024

# WOMEN2024

Welcome to WOMEN24 - A Series of Talks! As part of our project work in 2024, we are hosting a series of online talks led by and tailored to local women and girls here in West Yorkshire. These talks delve into critical issues impacting women in our communities.

In response to the civil unrest this summer, this next talk on THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28th will focus on intercultural relationships and positive working in communities.

For over 20 years verd de gris arts' work has focused on bringing together people from many different social, ethnic and cultural backgrounds: sometimes for one-off projects, at other times to create something special, and lasting. The ONE VOICE Collective, who co-create these talks with us, have been meeting for weekly sessions for over 7 years now. Their example encourages people to come together and work out solutions to issues that impact their lives.

At ONE VOICE, local women from different backgrounds and life experiences sit around a table and talk. They share stories, ideas, creative activities and formulate collective responses. We believe, that when people come together like this, in a space filled with love, understanding and compassion, free from assumptions about difference, the message we send out to wider society can be huge.

ONE VOICE now shares the women's collective vision, wisdom, love and connection through public events, online conversations and creative happenings. This is more important than ever.

As well as Saalihah Rasheed and Samantha Gill, members of One Voice, we have three other wonderful guests joining us, to talk about their experience of cross-community, intercultural work, and share the positive things they are doing now, to make change.

Please join our conversation and help us celebrate what can be achieved when we work together!

Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/women24-november-talk-tickets-1076492781889>

Further information will be sent via Seesaw.

## Year 4 Trip to Cliffe Castle

On Tuesday, class Australia visited Cliffe Castle Museum where they learnt all about the importance of the River Nile and had the opportunity to

complete the mummification process! We even had our very own Anubis. The children looked at and handled different Ancient Egyptian artefacts such as amulets and canopic jars. They also created a fantastic map of the River Nile and everything that surrounds it.



The children were so curious and inquisitive throughout the workshop and their behaviour was excellent.



## Dinner Menu w/c Monday 18th November

2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Southern Fried Chicken Goujons 1, 5	Homemade Beef Curry Naan Bread 5	Battered Fish 2, 5	Roast Chicken Dinner Yorkshire Puddings 5, 10, 12	Pizza 5, 10
	Tomato Pasta 5, 10	Homemade Onion Bhaji Samosas 5 Savoury Rice	Homemade Cheese & Onion Pie 5, 10, 12	Quorn Sausages 5	Homemade Macaroni Cheese 5, 10 Garlic Bread 5, 10, 14
Vegetables	Potato Puffs Beans Peas	Potato Wedges Broccoli Sweetcorn	Chips Mushy Peas	Roast Potatoes Broccoli Carrots	Potato Cubes 5 Beans Sweetcorn
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Salad Bar Selection of Sandwiches Allergies for the daily items available on request				
Dessert	Assorted Biscuits 5, 10, 12	Iced Cake 5, 10, 12	Cupcakes 5, 10, 12	Jam Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12
	Strawberry Swirls 10	Jelly	Cornflake Buns 4, 5, 10	Angel Delight 10	Chocolate Ice Cream 10

If you require an allergy list please email [kitchen@beechhillschool.co.uk](mailto:kitchen@beechhillschool.co.uk)



# National Online Safety - Weekly Information

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and well-being, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
12

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 550 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player option mode in Fortnite. It can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when going out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetics, skins, music tracks and V-Bucks – which aren't really integral to gameplay but can act as significant temptations. These items are bought with 'game currency', V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs in-game) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman in other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the character from Alien or Darth Vader. The Witcher is like a star that you otherwise might have.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from other players in the heat of virtual combat.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no denying that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. This violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent reminders to lighten the mood, such as taking 'no' gestures and dropping weapons. Mocking game, weapons and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developer's release cadence is 'constant in season' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment, a map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'space' or 'party'). These regular releases help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's retailing store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for nudging players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to impulsive transactions on bank cards, if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each one brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game; make sure any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. What knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and experts site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

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